



September 16, 2015

Mr. Gregory C. Johnson  
Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration  
707 North Calvert Street, C-400  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Pedestrian-Activated Traffic Signal at Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) and Lenox Street

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of the residents of Chevy Chase Village, we extend congratulations to you on your recent appointment as Administrator of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). My fellow municipal officials and I look forward to working with you over the coming years.

Our municipality is bifurcated by a very busy six-lane arterial highway which creates a number of difficulties, including creating unacceptable dangers for residents trying to walk from one portion of the Village to the other. Over the past three years, the Village has been working with SHA in pursuit of a full-color pedestrian-activated traffic signal at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) and Lenox Street to alleviate the danger. The installation of this signal will create a safe pedestrian crossing of this busy commuter artery into and out of the District of Columbia, facilitate access to public transportation on either side of Connecticut Avenue (the avenue) and provide for other societal benefits.

In response to our requests, we were pleased that SHA recognized that changes are needed to protect pedestrians at this intersection, but we strongly feel that the current plan to install flashing yellow Hazard Identification Beacons (HIB's) are ineffective and possibly dangerous. The signal proposed by SHA has a 65 percent failure rate according to Federal studies. Much better alternatives are available that are safer, cost-effective, and minimally disruptive to vehicular traffic. The flashing yellow HIB light planned by SHA will not protect pedestrians and may even increase the risk of pedestrian and vehicle crashes. In contrast, FHWA analysis reports that a full-color pedestrian-activated light produces near-100 percent compliance in vehicles yielding to pedestrians.

Accordingly, we have been informed that SHA plans to issue a notice to proceed for its signal contractor begin construction on the HIB signal this coming October. In an effort to continue our discussions with SHA for a safer alternative, we would like to invite you and your administration

**CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE**

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SUELLEN M. FERGUSON

to meet with us to discuss our concerns with the current plan. While we continue to work toward a safer alternative we request that SHA delay issuing a notice to proceed at this time.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Village Manager, Shana Davis-Cook or our Director of Municipal Operations, Michael Younes at (301) 654-7300.

We look forward to working with you to implement an effective pedestrian crossing for Chevy Chase Village.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gary Crockett, consisting of stylized initials 'GC' followed by a surname.

Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers

by Gary Crockett, Chair, ad-hoc Pedestrian Safety Committee

cc: Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers  
Shana R. Davis-Cook, Chevy Chase Village Manager  
Michael W. Younes, Chevy Chase Village Director of Municipal Operations  
Cedric Ward, Director, Office of Traffic & Safety, State Highway Administration  
Brian Young, District Engineer, State Highway Administration District 3  
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